

Appendix “A”

Clean Version of the Claims

40. A stackable painter's tool tray comprising:

a tople resistant receptacle having a flat bottom surface, the flat bottom surface having a top side and a bottom side;

a paint can securing member disposed on the top side of the flat bottom surface;

a spill retainer wall, disposed about the perimeter of the flat bottom surface, said spill retainer wall having spaced inner and outer walls connected along top margins thereof, said inner and outer walls forming a groove at the bottom margins of said walls such that the top margin of one tray fits within the groove of a second tray placed on top of the first tray;

said receptacle further comprising a plurality of spaced-apart guide members projecting from the top of the spill retainer wall, and providing a defined area for receiving a handle of a painter's tool.

41. A tople resistant receptacle comprising:

a container having a flat bottom surface, the flat bottom surface having a top side and a bottom side;

a spill retainer wall extending upwardly from the perimeter of said bottom surface, said spill retainer wall having spaced inner and outer walls joined along top margins thereof and spaced apart along bottom margins thereof, a bottom edge of said outer wall facing downwardly and extending slightly below the plane of said flat bottom surface of said receptacle;

a raised shoulder disposed on the top side of said flat bottom surface, said raised shoulder being sized, dimensioned and configured to engage a bottom end of a paint container thereto;

and wherein said receptacle further comprises a plurality of spaced apart guide members projecting from the top of the spill retainer wall, and providing a defined area for receiving a handle of a painter's tool.

42. A painter's tool kit comprising:

a topple resistant receptacle having a flat bottom surface, the flat bottom surface having a top side and a bottom side;

a paint can securing member disposed on the top side of the flat bottom surface;

a spill retainer wall, disposed about the perimeter of the flat bottom surface, said spill retainer wall having spaced inner and outer walls connected along top margins thereof;

said receptacle further comprising a plurality of spaced-apart guide members projecting from the top of the spill retainer wall, and providing a defined area for receiving a handle of a painter's tool;

a paint can slot shield, the slot shield comprising a disk having a top side, a bottom side, a central opening, and an exterior perimeter,

wherein said slot shield further comprises a brush securing member having a resilient gripping member arranged to secure a paint brush against a backing surface, said resilient gripping member comprising an elongate resilient

member extendable into said central opening of said disk, arranged to engage a paint brush between the resilient member and a backing surface arranged at the perimeter of said central opening.

43. The tray as set forth in claim 40 wherein a bottom edge of said outer wall faces downwardly and extends slightly below the plane of said bottom surface of said receptacle.

44. The tray as set forth in claim 40 wherein said paint can securing member comprises a raised shoulder disposed on said top side of the flat bottom surface of said receptacle, said raised shoulder being sized, dimensioned and configured to engage a paint container.

45. The tray as set forth in claim 44 wherein said raised shoulder further comprises a rib configured to resist withdrawal of the paint container.

46. The tray as set forth in claim 45 wherein at least one of said raised shoulder and rib is resilient.

47. The tray as set forth in claim 40 wherein said receptacle is oblong, having a rectilinear shape at one end and a curved shape at the opposite end.

48. The tray as set forth in claim 40 wherein the surface area of the flat bottom surface of said receptacle is at least twice the surface area of the bottom surface of a cylindrical gallon metal paint can.

49. The tray as set forth in claim 40 wherein a plurality of paint can securing members are disposed on the top side of the bottom surface.

50. The tray as set forth in claim 49 wherein the plurality of paint can securing members are sized so as to engage with a plurality of differently sized paint cans.

51. The kit as set forth in claim 42 wherein said slot shield further comprises a brush bristle wiping member.

52. The kit as set forth in claim 49 wherein said brush bristle wiping member comprises a generally straight wiping edge.

53. The kit as set forth in claim 50 comprising a second wiping edge extending angularly from said generally straight wiping edge.

54. The kit as set forth in claim 49 wherein said central opening of said disk is generally circular and said brush bristle wiping member comprises a wiping bar having a wiping edge arranged between spaced points along the perimeter of the generally circular central opening.

55. The kit as set forth in claim 42 wherein said central opening of said disk is generally circular and generally concentric with said exterior perimeter of said disk, and said bottom side of said disk comprises spaced, generally concentric, first and second raised shoulders arranged respectively about the perimeter of said central opening.

56. The kit as set forth in claim 53 wherein said first raised shoulder of said disk is arranged to engage an inside surface of a generally circular opening to a paint can.

57. The kit as set forth in claim 42 further comprising a gripping tab extending from said exterior perimeter of said disk.

58. The kit as set forth in claim 42 wherein said disk further comprises a wiping shield.

59. The kit as set forth in claim 56 wherein said wiping shield comprises a raised shoulder arranged on said top side of said disk along said perimeter of the central opening.

60. The kit as set forth in claim 42 further comprising an adapter plate.

61. The kit as set forth in claim 58 wherein said adapter plate comprises a plate having first and second sides, and having a circular raised shoulder on the first side of the plate and a rectilinear raised shoulder on the second side of the plate, one of said shoulders being configured to engage said paint can securing member, the other being configured to secure a paint can thereto.

62. The kit as set forth in claim 42 further comprising a ladder hook.

63. The kit as set forth in claim 60 wherein said ladder hook comprises a generally "U" shaped first end configured to removably mount to a rung of a ladder and two or more spaced opposite ends arranged to connect at spaced positions to an end of said receptacle.

64. The kit as set forth in claim 61 wherein said ladder hook is formed from a single wire rod, folded over at about its center to form two closely spaced generally parallel rods connected at a first end and shaped to form a generally "U" shape suitable to loop over a ladder rung; said rods being thereafter separated to form spaced opposite ends, arranged to securely engage opposite sides of said receptacle.